



Marginalia



Letters:

A BURNING QUESTION

SIRS: This morning's New York Times described your December cover and it sounds like a dandy.

Many people (some of whom have the potential to become the most adamant supporters of your stand) view draft card burning as unpatriotic and irresponsible.

Speaking from the distaff side may I suggest that you put a gentle smile on your faces and sock it to them.

MARIAN SHANLEY
Irvington, New Jersey

THE GARRISON COMMISSION

SIRS: If NBC, CBS, Newsweek, the CIA, the FBI and all other concerns are so sure of Jim Garrison ["The Garrison Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy," RAMPARTS, January 1968] being wrong in his investigation, why not allow him free reign and see if he makes the ass out of himself they all think he will? If Garrison's wrong, think of the laughs all these people will have. If Garrison's right, think of all the faith we had in our federal government.

R. C. HOOD JR
Fullerton, California

SIRS: Just a note to commend your writer on the recent Jim Garrison story. He interpreted correctly the UPI pick-up of the AP report of the threat by U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark against Jim Garrison. The remark, as your writer said, indicated a state of mind. As the reporter who picked up the line, I can describe the background.

Following a speech at the University of Virginia, Oct. 13, Clark, several law students, and a reporter resembling a student talked privately on stage. Clark answered the reporter's probing by saying, "Much as I may hate to do it, I just might have to prosecute Jim Garrison . . . he took a perfectly fine man, Clay Shaw, and ruined him just for personal aggrandizement." When asked what Garrison would obtain by bringing a groundless, losing case, Clark answered,

"Perhaps Garrison is not as logical as you are."

Clark also denied Garrison's assertion that the government has a large secret file of documents on the assassination. The only records not open to public inspection, he said, are those pertaining to President Kennedy's corpse. These are being withheld until the demise of the President's children.

Following Clark's denial that the Garrison prosecution statement was ever made, I contacted his office. The upshot was a note from press officer Cliff Sessions which could be interpreted as backtracking on the denial. Sessions said, "The Attorney General issued no statement on your story. In response to several inquiries, I released the following statement on the day after your story was carried by the AP: 'The Attorney General discussed this matter hypothetically. He stated no conclusion. The Department of Justice has no plans for any case against Mr. Garrison.'"

This differed from the denial carried by the AP, Oct. 14, which read: "However, a spokesman for the Justice Department in Washington said the department has no plans for bringing a case *at this time* [italics added]. The spokesman further denied that Clark had accused Garrison of ruining prominent New Orleans businessman Clay Shaw."

Observers and friends of Clark maintain the whole thing was a simple unguarded-moment incident. I have found no evidence to the contrary. But it's a reporter's job to have an essential distrust of innocence.

REY BARRY
The Daily Progress
Charlottesville, Virginia

EDITORIAL ROOMS AND MAIN BUSINESS OFFICE

301 Broadway
San Francisco, California 94133
Telephone: YU 1-4070

Cable Address:
RAMPARTS, San Francisco

Contents Copyright © 1968
by Ramparts Magazine, Inc.

Press run this issue: 270,000

Editor

Warren Hinckle III

Art Director

Dugald Stermer

Managing Editor

Robert Scheer

Assistant Managing Editor

Sol Stern

Senior Editors

David Horowitz, Gene Marine, Frederick C. Mitchell, William Turner

Consulting Editors

Noam Chomsky, Maxwell Geismar, Howard Gossage, Conor Cruise O'Brien, Carl Ogelsby, Stanley K. Sheinbaum, David Welsh

Copy Editor

Leslie Timan

Military Editor

Don Duncan

Staff Writers

Mike Ansara, Bob Avakian, Eldridge Cleaver, Peter Collier, Marianne Hinckle, Adam Hochschild, David Kolodney, Stephen Schneck, John Spitzer, Judy Stone

Advertising/Production Director

John Williams

Contributing Editors

G. M. Feigen, Travel; Paul Krassner, Society; Jean Lacouture, Southeast Asia; Sandra Levinson, Judy Feiffer, New York; Thomas Bransten, Paris; Marcus Raskin, Washington; Jessica Mitford, Oakland; Monique Maurer, Munich; Herbert Gold, Paul Jacobs, San Francisco; Leslie Fiedler, Buffalo; Hunter S. Thompson, Aspen; Sonia Orwell, London; Stan Freberg, Extra Pages; Harold Lipset, Criminology; Maurice Zeitlin, John Gerassi, Latin America

Editorial Assistants

Janis Chan, Katherine Flegal, Karen Garrett, Pauli Gilliland, Karen Kahn, Griffin Levy, Deborah Sampson, Vampira, Anna Willis-Betts

Assistant to the Editor

Maureen Stock

ADMINISTRATION

Warren Hinckle III (General Manager), Robert Kaldebach (Controller), Bert Garmise (Circulation Consultant), Marc Stone (East Coast Manager), G. M. Feigen (Generalist), Roy Tigner (Assistant Controller), Tuck Weills (Circulation Manager), Gordon Finley (Eastern Advertising Manager), Nancy Tibbon (Western Advertising Manager), Nicholas Samstag (?), Margot Lind (Administrative Assistant), Hanne Blum (Subscription Lady)

RAMPARTS is published monthly by Ramparts Magazine, Inc. MAIN OFFICES: 301 Broadway, San Francisco, California, Telephone YU 1-4070; NEW YORK OFFICES: 250 E. 65th St., Apt. 4C, New York, N.Y. Business Telephone: TE 8-1830; Editorial Telephone: WA 4-5525; PARIS OFFICE: 86 Rue de Lille, Paris. MUNICH OFFICE: Altmüllerstrasse 1/III, 8 München 13. SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$8.50, one year; \$15, two years in U.S.A. and possessions. Foreign rate: \$9.50, one year; \$16, two years. Foreign Airmail rates: Mexico, Central America & Caribbean Islands, \$17; Europe, South America, Africa (bordering the Mediterranean), \$21; Far & Near East, USSR, Australia & remainder of Africa, \$26.50. Single Issue, 75 cents. Copyright © 1968 by Ramparts Magazine, Inc. All rights reserved. MANUSCRIPTS: Unsolicited manuscripts submitted to RAMPARTS should be sent with return postage and self-addressed envelope. RAMPARTS editors assume no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts. Second copies should be retained by writer. EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISING CORRESPONDENCE: All editorial and advertising correspondence should be mailed to 301 Broadway, San Francisco, California. SUBSCRIPTION CORRESPONDENCE: All subscription correspondence, including address changes, should be mailed to RAMPARTS Subscription Dept., 1255 Portland Place, Boulder, Colorado 80302. For change of address, send both new and old address (enclose recent magazine address label, if possible). Please allow six weeks for change of address. Second-class postage paid at San Francisco, California, and at additional offices. Printed in the United States of America.